



Biowaste Disposal and Utilization

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Where It All Started

✓ Prior to 2000

- Access to rendering facilities was becoming limited on Colorado's Western Slope
- County landfills were inconsistent on their acceptance and definition of packing plant offal's and "tipping fees" became prohibitive
- Restaurant grease, offal's and supermarket waste became a liability to entities rather than an asset



Where It All Started

✓ **August 27, 2001**

- An informative meeting was held at the Colorado Department of Agriculture to discuss, clarify and explore this issue, later termed “Biowaste Disposal”

✓ **November 8, 2001**

- In the Grand Valley a meeting was held to discuss the impact of Grand Valley Byproducts closing

✓ **November 15, 2001**

- A follow-up meeting of a smaller working group was convened to further pursue solutions to this issue and concluded that data on the volume, type and annual cycles of “Biowaste” were needed to move forward



Where It All Started

✓ **December 13, 2001**

- The working group reconvened to discuss potential sources of financial support

✓ **March 14, 2001**

- The working group agreed that a showing of “interest” from the private sector would aid in securing funding to pursue research

✓ **March 18, 2001**

- A letter was drafted and sent to Colorado Commodity and Allied Industry groups asking for support



The Issues in Colorado

Estimated annual volume of dead livestock in Colorado (NASS, 2001)

	Inventory	Mortality	Potential Volume
Cattle	3,150,000	3 – 6 %	94,500 – 189,000
Hogs	840,000	3 – 6 %	25,000 – 50,400
Sheep	420,000	7 – 10 %	29,400 – 42,000
Horses	145,000	3 – 5 %	4,350 – 7,250

- **US Statistics for 2000 (Sparks Companies, 2002)**
 - ✓ 22.9 million Cattle, Hogs, Sheep and Goats
 - ✓ 3.0 billion pounds of mammalian livestock mortalities



Current Efforts

- ✓ **Study Funded by the Colorado Department of Higher Education**
 - **Action Point I –History and Scope of the Issue**
 - **Action Point II –Raw Material Consist and Volume**
 - **Action Point III –Colorado Biowaste Utilization Strategy Workshop (C-BUS)**
 - **Action Point IV –Solutions and Feasibility of C-BUS**
- ✓ **Slated for Completion December 2003**



Areas of Support

✓ **Current Financial Resources**

- Colorado Association of Meat Processors
- Colorado Department of Higher Education

✓ **Next Steps**

- Evaluate current disposal technologies
 - ✓ Safety
 - ✓ Sustainability
 - ✓ Economic Feasibility
- Deliver Viable Technologies to the Industry